

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please **AMEND** the claims as shown below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for dyeing fibers or filaments comprising:
- a plurality of prewetting troughs;
 - a plurality of dye baths;
 - a drying arrangement; and
 - a supporting system for dyeing fibers or filaments continuously and homogeneously, the supporting system comprising:
 - ~~a single porous fabric belt,~~
 - ~~means to form the single porous fabric belt~~ a single porous fabric belt formed into
 - a fabric roll for carrying fibers or filaments, and
 - ~~means to guide one or more nip rollers guiding said fabric roll along with fibers and~~
 - filaments through the pre-wetting troughs, the dye baths and the drying arrangement.

2 – 5. Cancelled

6. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for dyeing fibers or filaments of claim 1, wherein the belt is a synthetic or natural fabric.

7. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the belt is a blended fabric.

8. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the supporting system is inert to dyeing.

9. Cancelled

10. (Currently Amended) A method for dyeing fibers or filaments comprising:
supporting fibers or filaments on a single porous fabric belt and simultaneously forming the single porous fabric belt into a porous fabric roll;
carrying the fibers or filaments on the porous fabric roll;
guiding the porous fabric roll carrying the fibers or filaments through pre-wetting troughs for pre-wetting the fibers or filaments, die baths for dyeing the fibers or filaments and a drying arrangement for drying the fibers or filaments; and
separating the dried fibers or filaments from the porous fabric roll.

11. Cancelled

12. (Previously Presented) A method for dyeing fibers or filaments as claimed in claim 10, wherein the fibers or filaments for dyeing includes the fibers or filaments selected from

the group of cotton, other natural fibers, man made fibers, synthetic fibers, filaments and a combination thereof.

13. (Previously Presented) A method for dyeing fibers or filaments as claimed in claim 10, wherein the fiber is cotton fiber.

14. (Previously Presented) A method for dyeing fibers or filaments as claimed in claim 10, wherein the fibers are carried in either loose form, sliver form, intermediate form or rope form.

15. (Previously Presented) A method for dyeing fibers or filaments as claimed in claim 10, wherein the dye is selected from the group consisting of indigo, vat dye, reactive dye and the like, or a combination thereof.

16. (Previously Presented) A method for dyeing fibers or filaments as claimed in claim 10, wherein the at least one fiber or filament is indigo dyed.

17 – 26. Cancelled